



HR0754

LRB098 17244 MST 52604 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois State Representative Monique D. Davis
3 and the members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish
4 to recognize the legacy of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated
5 and thank them for their commitment to its community; and

6 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is the
7 first sorority founded by African-American women on the campus
8 of Howard University in 1908 under the guiding principles of
9 sisterhood, scholarship, and service; and

10 WHEREAS, The organization currently has more than 265,000
11 members and more than 970 chapters across the globe; and

12 WHEREAS, The Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
13 grew out of the Delta Phi Eta Club at the University of
14 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the purpose of fostering a
15 friendlier relationship among students; and

16 WHEREAS, Through the guidance of Alpha Kappa Alpha Founder
17 Beulah Elizabeth Burke and Incorporator Nellie Quander, Gamma
18 Chapter was chartered on February 12, 1914 as the third chapter
19 of Alpha Kappa Alpha; and

20 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha was the first sorority for

1 African-American women at the University of Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, The charter members of Gamma Chapter were Emma
3 Ballinger, Selma Beck, Frances Ellis, Clara Vesta Lewis, Louise
4 Lewis, Ivorine McAllister, Edith Stevens and Helen Stevens; and

5 WHEREAS, Gamma Chapter was a trailblazer in the expansion
6 of Alpha Kappa Alpha nationwide; and

7 WHEREAS, "Gamma Girls" have shown strong leadership in
8 service and scholarship both during and beyond their
9 undergraduate years; and

10 WHEREAS, Notable members of the organization include the
11 first African-American female University of Illinois Bronze
12 Tablet Scholar, the first African-American woman to be crowned
13 Homecoming Queen at a Big Ten school, an Alpha Kappa Alpha
14 International Corresponding Secretary, and 5 regional
15 directors; and

16 WHEREAS, Gamma Chapter played a pivotal role in the early
17 enrollment and housing of African-American women at the
18 University of Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Gamma House, which has served as a residence for
20 both sorority sisters and non-members alike, was instrumental

1 in recruiting and retaining African-American women at the
2 university; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of Gamma Chapter have gone on to become
4 educators, authors, lawyers, physicians, legislators, and a
5 plethora of other successful occupations; and

6 WHEREAS, Lovingly known as "Glamorous Gamma," the chapter
7 set the tone for student activism and future organizations
8 focused on women of color; and

9 WHEREAS, One hundred years later, the Gamma Chapter of
10 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority remains the longest-serving
11 organization for African-American women at the University of
12 Illinois, the State's flagship public institution of higher
13 learning; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we celebrate the women and legacy of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha
17 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in commemoration of their
18 centennial anniversary; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of Wednesday, February
20 12, 2014 as "Gamma Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority as
3 a symbol of our esteem and respect.